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## Women Veterans Informer

### Volume 2, Issue 5 - Women Veterans Informer

**In 2011, the Veteran of the Month Award was established for men and women across the State of Nevada, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty specifically with respect to volunteer work in support of veterans and the military.**



### May's Veteran of the Month is Denise Ashurst

Denise Ashurst served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. During her military career, she became the first black woman to serve as a Site Operations Coordinator for the Nevada Test Site. As a result of her efficiency and effectiveness, she easily became the "go to person" for coordinating and scheduling between the Nevada Test Site and Nellis Air Force Base.

After 35 years of government service, she retired and went on to become the Founder and President of Pride in Purity International Ministries. Pride in Purity International Ministries is a non-profit organization designed to help women of all ages make healthy and wise choices by getting back to their faith.

Ms. Ashurst has authored three books, *Pride in Purity*, *Ribblets*, and *You're in the Army Now*. Having a desire to 'give back' to the military, she donated proceeds from her "You're in the Army Now" book-signing event to the Society of Military Widow's of Southern Nevada Chapter #34 (SMW Chapter 34). Currently, Ms. Ashurst is serving as an "Honorary Member" for the SMW Chapter 34. She coordinated the "Wreaths Across America Day" campaign and through her efforts she doubled their fundraising efforts from the previous year.

While remaining active in her church, Calvary Chapel Boulder City she simultaneously serves her community through organizations such as, the Women's Research Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" (OCC), Angelman's Syndrome Foundation, Nevada Community Prevention Coalition and is an active member of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she continues to assist veterans through the SMW Chapter 34, the Civil Air Patrol Cadets, and visits Homebound Military Widows.

**Nominate a Woman Vet for Veteran of the Month:**

**<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>**



## The First Female Fleet Commander of Ships

Article by NavyTimes.com

April 21, 2015

The President of the United States, Barak Obama, has nominated Vice Admiral Nora Tyson to lead the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Tyson will be the Navy's first female numbered fleet commander of ships. (The first female numbered fleet commander is Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, who leads U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, also known as 10th Fleet).

Nora Tyson, is an American naval officer for the United States Navy. She served as Vice Director of the Joint Staff since February 2012. She was promoted to Vice Admiral and named as Deputy Commander, US Fleet Forces Command in 2013.



Tyson graduated from Vanderbilt University and received her commission from Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. She earned her wings as a naval flight officer in 1983 and reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ4), where she ultimately served three tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland, and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, including one as commanding officer. Tyson earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Affairs from the U.S. Naval War College in 1995.

Tyson also commanded the amphibious assault ship, USS Bataan (LHD 5), leading the Navy's contributions to disaster relief efforts on the U.S. Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and deploying twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her other commands include commander, Task Force 73/commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific based in Singapore and, most recently, commander, Carrier Strike Group 2, where she led the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility. She has been the No. 2 at Fleet Forces for nearly two years.

Her other tours at sea include assistant operations officer aboard the training aircraft carrier, USS Lexington (AVT 16), and as navigator aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65). Her shore tours include service on the Joint Staff as a political-military planner in the Asia-Pacific Division of the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5); as Executive Assistant for the assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; as director of staff for Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, 6th Fleet; as Executive Assistant for the Chief of Naval Operations; and as Vice Director, Joint Staff.



## 95-year-old Daufuskie Island native honored for military service with Congressional Gold Medal

By Amy Coyne Bredeson

April 20, 2015



Pictured is Brigadier General Jim Blackburn, 96 year-old Amelia Jones, a Sgt. and World War II veteran wearing her Tuskegee red blazer, with her Congressional Gold Medal that was awarded to her by former U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson on Sunday at Hospice Savannah. Pictured with Jones, are from left: John W. McCaskilld Command Sergeant Major Stanley Varner of the 3rd ID. Photo by Leslie Wilkes

October at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Ga. Jones said she was the first woman to receive the honor. "It was a pleasant surprise," Jones said.

The Tuskegee Airmen was a program of the Army Air Corps, made up of men and women, which trained African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft, according to the Tuskegee Airmen website.

On Sunday, Jones was honored again, this time with a Congressional Gold Medal. In April 2006, Congress voted to award the medal, Congress' highest civilian honor, to the Tuskegee Airmen, according to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force website.

Priscilla Walker, a volunteer with Hospice Savannah, has been caring for Jones for more than a year. She described Jones as a spunky woman who enjoys being around people and laughing. Walker went with Jones to Washington and said she was "like a kid in a candy store."

"She's really a pleasure," Walker said. "You don't get bored with her."

Beth Logan, director of marketing at Hospice Savannah, said about 75 people came to watch Jones receive the award Sunday, including three Bluffton High School JROTC cadets who volunteer with Hospice Care of the Lowcountry's We Honor Veterans Program.

"I'm just thankful and appreciative for everything that has been done for me," Jones said. "It was quite an experience, and I have enjoyed every day that I served in the military."

Follow Amy Coyne Bredeson at [twitter.com/IPBG\\_Amy](https://twitter.com/IPBG_Amy).

Amelia Robinson Jones was the only woman in her department when she enlisted at Hunter Army Airfield in 1943.

The youngest of 14 children, the Daufuskie Island native who rose to Sergeant in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was inspired to serve her country by her two older brothers who had fought in World War I. She worked with the military for more than 19 years, first in administration and later in the postal department. The 95-year-old Savannah woman recently received a long-awaited reward for her service.

In September, she took an Honor Flight Savannah trip to Washington, D.C. Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization that honors World War II and Korean War veterans by flying them to Washington to view those wars' memorials.

On that trip Jones learned she qualified for the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen jacket. She was presented with the jacket at a ceremony in



MAY IS  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
MONTH



## CONNECT WITH STORIES

*MakeTheConnection.net/Connect*

### At **MakeTheConnection.net**

Veterans and their families and friends can watch powerful stories of strength and resilience, find information on topics including mental health, and locate nearby resources for recovery.



**CONNECT WITH VETERANS**



**CONNECT WITH STORIES**

### Veterans Care Fair

Friday, June 5, 2015 - 9:00am

2250 N Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Education and Opportunity, Financial Services, Health Care,  
Jobs and Economic Growth, Veterans

*Vet Centers are Here for You*



*from Combat Zone to Comfort Zone*

Vet Centers - [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) - 1.877.WAR.VETS

### **Have you experienced MST:** (Military Sexual Trauma)

The VA provides free, confidential counseling and treatment to male and female veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of MST. You do not need to be service connected and may be able to receive this benefit even if you are not eligible for other VA care. You do not need to have reported the incident when it happened or have other documentation that it occurred. Veterans can receive compensation for disabilities that began or got worse in the line of duty, including disabilities or injuries resulting from MST. When a veteran applies for disability compensation, VA must first determine whether there are current disabilities related to his or her military service. If there are, compensation is based on the current level of impairment.

A Veterans Service Representative at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) can explain the compensation program in greater detail and assist you in filing a claim.

For more information, call **1-800-827-1000**.



## MEMORIAL DAY DISCOUNTS

### Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's military, from Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 through Labor Day, September 7, 2015.

### California's Great America

For Memorial Day weekend, all active and retired service members, including veterans, get free park admission to California's Great America May 23-25, 2015 with a valid military ID.

### General Motors

All active, reserve, retired and veteran military can receive the General Motors military discount on Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles until June 30, 2015.

### Home Depot

All veterans are eligible for Home Depot's 10% military discount on May 25 a DoD-issued ID, a DD214 or a Veterans Driver's License. (This discount is good for veterans on July 4th and Veterans Day as well.)

### King's Dominion

King's Dominion is offering free park admission to any active, inactive or retired service members May 23-25, 2015.

### Lowe's

Lowe's honors all veterans on Memorial Day (as well as July 4th and Veterans Day) with a 10% discount.

### Sears

Sears Tools is offering a double discount on tools (40% for regular priced, 10% for sale priced) from May 21 to May 31.

### Shoney's

Shoney's is serving a free All-American Burger to all active duty military and veterans on Memorial Day, May 25, 2015.



## Virginia City's Celebration of Heroes Memorial Day Parade

The parade starts at noon on Saturday, May 23, 2014 and will travel down C Street, Virginia City's main drag. The parade celebrates the heroism and sacrifice of those Americans who have died defending our nation.

**Call (775) 847-7500 for more information.**

## 3rd Annual Honor Flight Nevada Pancake Breakfast

Monday, May 25, 2015 on your 7:00am 12:00pm Honor Flight Nevada Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast.

### **Come and support Honor Flight Nevada.**

Support a Veteran to Travel to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight trip! With last year's huge success and generous donations Honor Flight Nevada was able to send 65 veterans back to see their memorials! Let's make this year's event even better.... to purchase tickets in advance use the button below or call 775.813.6505 or purchase the day of the event !!!

Good Food Good Music and Great Friends, Neighbors and Veterans to enjoy.

Location:

Garden Shop Nursery -3636 Mayberry Drive, Reno, NV 89509

Telephone: (775) 825-3527.



## Summer Salute

Classic Chevys of Reno has teamed up with News Talk 780 KOH, The Veterans Guest House, Honor Flight Nevada and Operation Feedback to create a charity-focused Memorial Day weekend event called Summer Salute to benefit our Veterans.

Join us for Summer Salute 2015 on Saturday, May 23rd at Washoe County Rancho San Rafael Park from 9am to 3pm. There is no greater way to spend your Memorial Day Weekend than by supporting our veterans while enjoying the classic car hobby. Bring your hot rod, stock classic, or whatever you are driving because Summer Salute is open to all years, all makes and models. Enjoy food, entertainment, vendors, and a great day in a beautiful park atmosphere.

### **ALL NET PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR LOCAL VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS.**

Call / email **Nancy King** at (775) 424-3805 [nking98@yahoo.com](mailto:nking98@yahoo.com) for more info.

## Career Corner



### VETS Connect: One-on-One Business Sessions for Small Business Owners

Created by Veterans for Veterans, VETS connects you with Federal agencies, prime contractors, and other business owners, who can help you find work in the Federal marketplace. The Goal is to provide the knowledge and relationships needed for Veterans business owners to service the Federal government. VETS brings together Federal agencies, prime contractors, and Veteran business owners to discuss how to take full advantage of the Federally mandated contracting opportunities set aside specifically for Veteran-owned small businesses. Ask a real question, get a candid answer. VETS provides the information and strategies you need to maximize your efforts and avoid pitfalls when dealing with the Federal government.

One-on-One Business Sessions are face-to-face meetings that are invaluable in forging alliances between Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses ("Suppliers") and government agencies, prime contractors, and large or medium size businesses ("Buyers"). Each One-on-One Session may open up endless business and networking opportunities by providing small business owners with one-on-one exposure to potential procurement officials and opportunities. One-on-One Sessions will take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. in Norfolk, VA

<http://www.veterantrainingsymposium.com/2015-conference-registration>



### Next Career Fair in Las Vegas, NV

Tuesday, June 10, 2015 at Palace Station

2411 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89102

Time: 12-3 p.m. Free for Jobseekers.

Dress for Business / Interview. JOBSEEKERS - for event information, call 702-224-5587



**HireLive** is a national career service company specializing in Sales, Retail and Management Career Fairs. HireLive will host a career fair on Thursday, June 4th at 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Suncoast Hotel and Casino.

The location is 9090 Alta Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89145 and parking is complimentary.

Please come to the event professionally dressed, prepared with multiple copies of your resume and ready to meet with hiring managers.

## Opportunities for Veterans

Search for your next employment opportunity online at:

<http://www.veteransjobexchange.com/jobs/l-nevada>

### Wild Island Family Adventure Park in Sparks, NV... No previous experience? No problem!

Wild Island is currently looking for employees for ALL departments, including Coconut Bowl, Food & Beverage staff, Cashiers, Lifeguards, Operational Services, Golf and Raceway. With competitive pay, flexible hours, scholarships, a fun work environment, training, and incentive programs.

For more information: <http://www.wildisland.com/employment/>

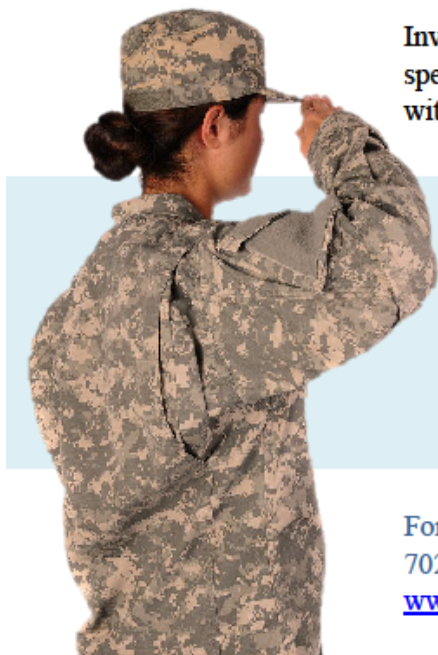
**Zephyr Cove Resort at Lake Tahoe** is the best of both worlds: the beauty of a pristine mountain lake setting combined with the thrill of new adventures. Zephyr Cove is the year-round destination of choice and has multiple job openings in Zephyr Cove and Lake Tahoe.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/ph9dwa4>

SAVE THE DATE



## Congresswoman Dina Titus



Invites all **ACTIVE DUTY** and **VETERAN** women to attend a special presentation and meeting to discuss female healthcare needs with Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans Elisa Basnight.

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

**10:00am – 11:00am**

Public Education Foundation  
4350 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119

For additional details and to RSVP for the event contact:  
702-220-9823 or [kim.pool@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.pool@mail.house.gov) or  
[www.facebook.com/CongresswomanTitus](http://www.facebook.com/CongresswomanTitus)



### ELKO TO SALT LAKE CITY FATIGUES TO FABULOUS

In support of women veterans, the Department of Veteran Services will transport 45 women veterans who reside in the Elko Area to Salt Lake City via charter bus for a Women Veterans Celebration on either November 9th or 10th of 2015.

If you are a woman veteran living in Elko and would like to join us for the Fatigues to Fabulous event in Salt Lake City, please contact your **Women Veterans Coordinator:**

**Necole Stevens at 702.791.9000 ext: 15518 or by email at [stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov) for additional information.**

(Dates and times will be announced shortly).

**FATIGUES to fabulous**  
WARRIOR TO WOMAN

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
WOMEN VETERANS CELEBRATION

**DATE: TBA**

Zions Bank, Founders Room (18th Floor)  
One South Main, Salt Lake City

Enjoy dinner, meet new girlfriends, hear from other inspiring female Veterans and stick around for our fabulous FASHION SHOW!

This FREE event, in recognition of Veterans Day, honors the service of all women including active duty, National Guard, and Reserve.

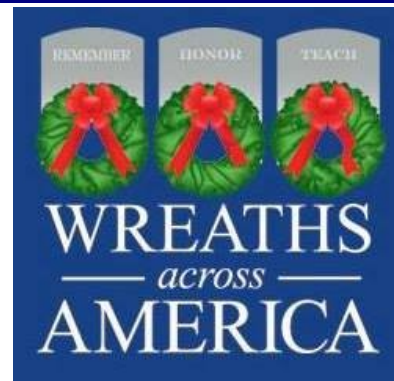
RESOURCE AND INFORMATION FAIR  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

WOMEN VETERANS CELEBRATION  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

## Wreaths Across America

Our mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

We also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread our message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.



The cost of our programs is paid by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors.

See more at: <http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/>

Our ultimate goal is to cover every grave site at the SNVMC and honor all the veterans interred within the cemetery. That number is now over 5,500. The public is welcome to attend and assist with placing the wreaths following the ceremony.

ICYMI

**Dean Heller**  
U.S. Senator for Nevada



**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich

April 21, 2015

202-224-6244

### Heller Fights for Nevada's Women Veterans

**(Washington, DC)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke at the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing on "Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans." The hearing was requested by Senator Heller earlier this year and examined what progress the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made in offering gender-specific care to women veterans.



### Heller Emphasizes Importance of Womens' Clinics at VA Hospitals Heller Stresses Importance of Fulfilling the Promises Made to Nevada's Women Veterans

In March, the [Senate agreed to Heller Amendment #456](#) to the FY2016 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), which ensures Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities properly meet the needs of women veterans by taking into account their safety, privacy, and dignity.

The amendment was cosponsored by Senators Murray, Bob Casey (D-PA), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

Additional details: <http://tinyurl.com/mdtbh8a>

Information for Veterans: <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/veterans>



Necole Stevens  
Women Veterans Coordinator  
for  
Nevada Department  
of Veterans Services

**Southern Nevada  
Healthcare System  
North Las Vegas VA  
Medical Center  
6900 N Pecos Rd  
North Las Vegas, NV  
89086  
Phone: 702.791.9000 ext  
15518  
E-mail:  
stevensn@veterans.nv.gov**

## Web Sites

Green Zone Network  
"Get connected with  
the Nevada  
Veteran Community"  
Employment, Education  
and Wellness  
[www.greenzonenetwork.org](http://www.greenzonenetwork.org)

Nevada Department of  
Veteran Services General  
Information (866) 630-8387

Visit [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov)  
for information concerning;  
Nevada State  
Veterans Home  
Southern and Northern  
Nevada Veteran  
Memorial Cemeteries  
Veterans Rural Outreach  
"ROVER" Calendar



**"Serving America's  
Heroes"**

## Meet Your Women Veteran Coordinator

Necole Stevens is a well-traveled military brat, both parents served honorably for the United States Air Force. After a long nomadic lifestyle, she made Las Vegas, NV her home and has resided there for over 15 years.

Necole received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and Public Administration from Ashford University and is currently working towards earning her master's in Human Resources. For the last 15 years, she has recruited for large organizations, including the Clark County School District, along with other private-sector companies. Her recruitment strategies included recruiting diverse candidates and U.S. Veterans.

Ms. Stevens worked closely with military programs i.e. "Troops to Teachers" to ensure that Veterans found gainful employment.

Contact your WVC today!  
stevensn@veterans.nv.gov  
702.791.9000 ext 15518



## Submit Pictures and Articles

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the  
Women Veterans Informer please email the women veterans coordinator at:  
[stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov)

## Vision

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America's servicewomen and **all** Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

## Mission

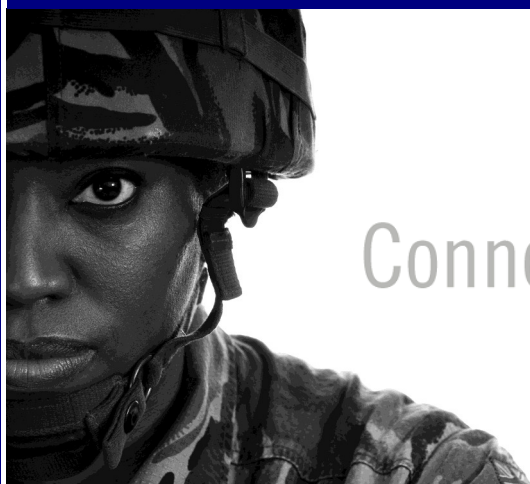
To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

## Honoring Women Veterans

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we're committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.

Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution. Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It's all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don't even realize they're veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.



*Stay*  
Connected

### Looking for help?

See below for important phone numbers.

#### Nevada Department of Veterans Services

1 (866) 630-VETS

1 (866) 630-8387

#### Department of Veterans Affairs

1 (800) 827-1000

#### VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1 (800) 273-TALK

1 (800) 273-8255



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>



Twitter: [https://twitter.com/NDVS\\_Necole](https://twitter.com/NDVS_Necole)



Google+: <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSgpage>



Website: <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>



Instagram: [ndvs.wvc](https://www.instagram.com/ndvs.wvc)



Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>



Email: [stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov)

